

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Once Amended) A suture trimmer, the suture trimmer comprising:
a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end and an axis therebetween, the shaft having a groove formed in the side thereof, the groove in communication with an opening formed in the side of the shaft, the opening disposed proximal the distal end;
a cutting member slidably disposed within the shaft;
a suture retainer slidably disposed within the shaft; and
a handle, the handle disposed adjacent the proximal end of the shaft, [The suture trimmer according to Claim 2,]wherein the handle further includes a first lever and a second lever, the first lever operatively coupled to the suture retainer and the second lever operatively coupled to the cutting member.
4. (Once Amended) The suture trimmer according to Claim 3, wherein the handle further includes at least one biasing member, the biasing member in communication with [connected to] at least one of the cutting member and a suture retainer.
5. (Previously Presented) The suture trimmer according to Claim 4, wherein the opening has a proximal edge, and wherein the cutting member includes a sharpened edge, the sharpened edge adapted to engage the proximal edge to sever suture when suture is disposed through the groove and opening.
6. (Previously Presented) The suture trimmer according to Claim 5, wherein the sharpened edge of the cutting member is retracted within the shaft until withdrawn by applying a force to the second lever.
7. (Once Amended) The suture trimmer according to Claim 6, wherein a suture is disposed within the groove and opening by retracting the suture retainer within the shaft by applying a force to the first lever.

8-20 (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A suture trimmer, the suture trimmer comprising:
a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein an opening is formed within the shaft and adjacent to the distal end;

a fitting having proximal and distal ends and a groove formed therein, said groove configured to receive at least one length of suture, the distal end of said fitting configured to engage a knot;

a cutting member, the cutting member slidably disposed within the shaft;
a suture retaining member; and

a handle assembly disposed on the proximal end of said shaft, wherein said handle includes at least two levers, wherein one lever is in communication with said cutting member and the other with said suture retaining member.

22. (Previously Presented) The cutter according to Claim 21, further including at least one biasing member, the biasing member in communication with at least one of the cutting member and suture retaining member.

23. (Currently Canceled) ~~The cutter according to Claim 22, wherein the cutting member is slidably disposed within said shaft.~~

24. (Previously Presented) The cutter according to Claim 23, wherein said suture retaining member is slidably disposed within said shaft.

25. (Previously Presented) The cutter according to Claim 24, wherein said opening has a proximal edge and wherein said cutting member includes a sharpened proximal edge portion, wherein the sharpened proximal edge portion is configured to engage the proximal edge of said opening, thereby severing suture when suture is disposed within said opening.